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## **Introduction to the Created Variable**

### **Appendices**

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The mainfile NLSY97 CD-ROM contains a number of created variables. These created variables will be included on each public release of the NLSY97. With very few exceptions, these variables are either commonly used items that are derived from a number of different NLSY97 survey questions or longitudinal items that require updating in each round. If they were not provided, creating either the longitudinal or the cross-sectional variables might present difficulties for some NLSY97 users. In general, the created variables present information in five topical areas: education, employment, family background, geographic information, and income and assets.

The first five appendices present the programs that were used to create the NLSY97 variables in round 1. The majority of programs are in SAS; a few are in SPSS. In the interest of space, six variables were not included in these appendices. These are the following:

CV\_INTERVIEW\_CMONTH  
CV\_INTERVIEW\_DATE  
CV\_AGE\_INT\_DATE  
CV\_AGE(MONTHS)\_INT\_DATE  
CV\_PARENT\_INT\_DATE  
CV\_AGE\_12/31/96

These variables are either directly picked up from the data set or relatively easy to compute. In the case of CV\_INTERVIEW\_CMONTH and CV\_AGE(MONTHS)\_INT\_DATE, a simple formula of  $\{([variable\ year - 1980] * 12) + variable\ month\}$  was used to translate the date into a continuous month scheme (see Appendix 7 for a further explanation of the continuous month scheme).

These programs are provided for the convenience of the user and are available electronically from NLS User Services (see the Table of Contents for information on how to contact User Services).

Appendices 6 and 7 provide detailed information about the creation of the event history variables, a special set of variables included on the mainfile CD-ROM. Although programs are not included, the text of Appendix 6 describes the various status arrays available and discusses the creation and editing process. Appendix 7 explains the continuous month and continuous week systems used in the creation of event history variables and provides a crosswalk of continuous month/week and actual dates so that researchers can associate event history variables with other information about the respondents.

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